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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,412	06/24/2004	Gery Verwimp	2001P24459WOUS	2081

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EXAMINER
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ANDREWS, LEON T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/500,412	<b>Applicant(s)</b> VERWIMP, GERY	
	<b>Examiner</b> Leon Andrews	<b>Art Unit</b> 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

- Applicant's Amendment filed November 7, 2007 is acknowledged.
- **Claims 1-7** were previously cancelled.
- **Claim 8** was amended.
- Amendment to the Abstract is acknowledged.
- Examiner's Rejection to **Claims 8-17** is not withdrawn.

1. **Claims 8-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by **Leung et al.** (Pub. No.: US 2001/0053218 A1).

**Regarding Claim 8**, Leung et al. discloses a method for exchanging a network element in a signaling network (method for providing communication between signaling points (SPs) (network element) in a signaling network, paragraph [0025], page 2, lines 2-3), comprising:

directing all transaction reports between the network element to be exchanged and the signaling network (signaling transaction is established between first, second and third SPs of the signaling network, paragraph [0025], page 2, lines 6-9) via the exchange network element (Fig. 1, SP A, first SP, paragraph [0025], page 2, line 6), the exchange network element (Fig. 1, SP A, first SP, paragraph [0025], page 2, line 6) and the network element to be exchanged (Fig. 1, SP B, second SP, paragraph [0025], page 2, line 7) using the same identifying code (second SP communicates message containing first SP identification information and a unique call identifier, paragraph [0025], page 2, lines 14-17);

determining at the exchange network element whether a transaction report (signaling transaction between the first SP and the second SP in a telecommunications signaling network, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 3-7) arriving from the signaling network is intended for the network element to be exchanged or the exchange network element itself (signaling established between the first and second SPs, the second SP determining that the query received from the first SP should be handled by the third SP and communicates with the first SP a wait for instruction message, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 5-13); and

forwarding the transaction report to the network element to be exchanged for processing when the transaction report is intended for the network element to be exchanged and otherwise processing the transaction report in the exchange network element (second SP communicates to the third SP a message containing first SP identification information and a unique identifier, and also indicating that the second SP is terminating signaling transaction between the second SP and the third SP and further providing a directive for the third SP to send a message to the first SP containing the call identifier, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 16-22).

**Regarding Claim 9**, Leung et al. discloses the network elements, on transmission of transaction reports for initiation of functions in another network element transmit an identification code identifying the sending network (when the first SP receives the message from the third SP, a new signaling is created between the first SP and the third SP linking the call identifier with the new signaling transaction, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 23-26) and transmit a transaction code (all SPs are assigned discrete point codes, paragraph [0002], page 1, lines 18-19; "TC Correlate" which contains SP A's point code and subsystem number and also the originating transaction ID

of SP A, paragraph [0039], pages 2 and 3, lines 2-4).

**Regarding Claim 10**, Leung et al. discloses the transaction code of a transaction code report (all SPs are assigned discrete point codes and subsystem numbers, paragraph [0002], page 1, line 18-19) is registered in the network element (discrete point codes and subsystem numbers assigned to SPs {are thus registered in the SPs}, paragraph [0002], page 1, lines 18-19).

**Regarding Claim 11**, Leung et al. discloses the transaction code of a transaction code report (all SPs are assigned discrete point codes and subsystem numbers, paragraph [0002], page 1, line 18-19) is changed in the network element (SPs are assigned discrete point codes and subsystem numbers, but the subsystem numbers used to identify the user function {are thus changed since they are dependent upon the user function}, paragraph [0002], page 1, lines 18-20; unique transaction identifications (IDs) are assigned to different transactions, paragraph [0004], page 1, lines 6-7).

**Regarding Claim 12, 13 and 14**, Leung et al. discloses a transaction code (all SPs are assigned discrete point codes, paragraph [0002], page 1, lines 18-19) which can uniquely identify the transaction report (unique transaction identifications (IDs) are assigned to different transactions, paragraph [0004], page 1, lines 6-7) is issued by a network element (SPs assign discrete point codes, paragraph [0002], page 1, lines 18-19) for a transaction report (originating signaling transaction between SP A and SP B, paragraph [0055], page 3, lines 4-5).

**Regarding Claim 15**, Leung et al. discloses SS#7 used as the signaling protocol (signaling transactions in the SS7 protocol, paragraph [0033], page 2, lines 1-2).

**Regarding Claim 16**, Leung et al. discloses the part of the signaling protocol used is the part for processing addresses (parameters are set in accordance with standard signaling protocol, SS7, a subset of which, TCAP provides the function of transferring between SPs (source and destination addresses), paragraph [0003], page 1, lines 3-7 and paragraph [0004], page 1, lines 1-3; the first trend in the telecommunication industry (SS7) is SSP is service processing logic is migrating from SSPs to databases, paragraph [0021], page 1, lines 7-10) when forwarding a transaction report (originating signaling transaction between SP A and SP B, paragraph [0055], page 3, lines 4-5).

**Regarding Claim 17**, Leung et al. discloses one of the network elements is specified as a Signaling Transfer Point (Signal Transfer Points (STPs) which are nodes at which signaling messages are transferred, paragraph [0002], page 1, lines 16-17).

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

**Blatchford et al.** (Patent Number: US 5,384,840) discloses telecommunications system SS7 signaling interface with signal transfer capability.

**McGrew** (Patent Number: US 6,717,940 B1) discloses message transfer part level three alias point codes.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed November 7, 2007 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

- In the remarks on page 6 of the amendment, applicant contends Leung et al. fails to disclose an exchange network element that receives the transaction report and determines whether the transaction report was intended for it or another network element. Further, since the recited method is not disclosed by the prior art, claims 8-17 are patentable and the application is in condition for allowance.
- The examiner respectfully disagrees and contends that Leung et al. discloses that signaling established between the first and second SPs, the second SP determining that the query received from the first SP should be handled by the third SP and communicates with the first SP a wait for instruction message, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 5-13. Further, the recited method is disclosed by the prior art in that regarding claim 8, Leung et al. discloses a method for exchanging a network element in a signaling network (method for providing communication between signaling points (SPs) (network element) in a signaling network, paragraph [0025], page 2, lines 2-3), comprising:

directing all transaction reports between the network element to be exchanged and the signaling network (signaling transaction is established between first, second and third SPs of the signaling network, paragraph [0025], page 2, lines 6-9) via the exchange network element (Fig. 1, SP A, first SP, paragraph [0025], page 2, line 6), the exchange network element (Fig. 1, SP A, first SP, paragraph [0025], page 2, line 6) and the network element to be exchanged (Fig. 1, SP B, second SP, paragraph [0025], page 2, line 7) using the same identifying code (second SP communicates message containing first SP identification information and a unique call identifier, paragraph [0025], page 2, lines 14-17);

determining at the exchange network element whether a transaction report (signaling transaction between the first SP and the second SP in a telecommunications signaling network, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 3-7) arriving from the signaling network is intended for the network element to be exchanged or the exchange network element itself (signaling established between the first and second SPs; the second SP determining that the query received from the first SP should be handled by the third SP and communicates with the first SP a wait for instruction message, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 5-13); and

forwarding the transaction report to the network element to be exchanged for processing when the transaction report is intended for the network element to be exchanged and otherwise processing the transaction report in the exchange



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network element (second SP communicates to the third SP a message containing first SP identification information and a unique identifier, and also indicating that the second SP is terminating signaling transaction between the second SP and the third SP and further providing a directive for the third SP to send a message to the first SP containing the call identifier, paragraph [0026], page 2, lines 16-22). Thus, claims 8-17 are not patentable and the application is not in condition for allowance.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon Andrews whose telephone number is (571) 270-1801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rao S. Seema can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LA/la *LA*  
July 27, 2007

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